



Camp Mak-A-Dream
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Frequently Asked Questions About YASC

What is the Young Adult Survivors Conference (YASC)?

YASC is a unique 6-day educational program designed to address issues of survivorship, provide information about being a cancer survivor, and build bridges of support among young adult cancer survivors who may be experiencing similar journeys through life. Ultimately, the goal of YASC is to create an environment in which conference participants may gain the skills necessary to move on after experiencing cancer and to obtain skills to advocate for themselves and others.

Who attends YASC?

YASC participants range in age from 18-40 and come from all over the U.S. and Canada. Participants are currently out of treatment (at least 1 year) and are dealing with long-term effects of having had cancer. Participants will come ready to experience an educational conference aimed at sharing skills, knowledge and ideas so that they may go home armed with new resources and support.

Can I come even if I am many years off treatment?

YASC is available to individuals at all stages of cancer survivorship, from recent diagnosis to long-term survivors. At YASC, survivors can learn skills, discuss ideas and share stories confronting issues relating to their experience after medical treatment has ended. There are many stages of cancer survivorship; bringing together a diversity of individuals creates a dynamic, safe and healthy environment in which they can learn and share.

Can I come even if I am in the midst of treatment?

Our medical team is able to administer advanced treatment such as oral chemotherapy, IV antibiotics, blood transfusions, platelets, and blood tests.

What kind of medical support exists at YASC?

Our modern Health Center is staffed with volunteer nurses and doctors during Camp. They review medical information about each camper so that they are able to provide the best possible care. Our medical staff is able to provide advanced treatment at any time. The role of the medical staff is non-intrusive to the daily activities at Camp.

What are the facilities like at Gold Creek Lodge, home of Camp Mak-A-Dream?

Gold Creek Lodge is located in a small ranching community 65 miles east of Missoula. Although the Lodge is nestled at the foot of the Flint Mountains amongst incredible Montana scenery it is not a rustic camp. Facilities include modern cabins, an art studio, health center and main lodge as well as, a swimming pool, hot tub, ropes course and climbing wall.

Where will I sleep?

Participants stay in one of 4 large cabins (2 male & 2 female). Each cabin sleeps up to 20 people comfortably. There is also a common area with a fireplace and kitchenette and two handicapped-accessible bathrooms with showers. A consierge (host/hostess) stays in a private room in each cabin to assist the group throughout their stay.

What do we eat?

Everyone at Camp eats together in the main lodge for each meal. Large round tables create an atmosphere of community. Food is abundant and nutritious and is served buffet style. A variety of snacks is also available in the cabins. For staff and participants who require vegetarian or other dietary alternatives, we ask you to let us know and will do our best to accommodate any special needs.

What is the role of staff at YASC?

Qualified staff members and volunteers are here to assist you with anything you may need during the conference.

How much does it cost to attend YASC?

Once you arrive, the conference is completely cost free. You will, however, need to provide your own way to Missoula, Montana. United, Delta/Northwest, and Horizon/Alaska airlines fly into Missoula. We suggest booking a ticket as soon as you are confirmed as travel to Montana can be expensive. We offer a limited number of scholarships to help cover the cost of travel. Travel scholarships are available to new participants. Call the office to request a Travel Scholarship Application form. We must receive the completed application form at least 30 days prior to your travel date.

What's the difference between YASC and YAC (Young Adult Conference)?

YASC was designed based on a need for more hands-on workshops and training that focuses on issues affecting individuals in all stages of survivorship. Topics, led by professional speakers and facilitators, will be discussed, highlighting physical and emotional effects from cancer and treatments, how to maintain social networks, relationship challenges with family and peers, career and educational options, grief and loss, dating, and insurance and financial issues. These topics will be addressed in small, intimate workshop settings. Most of what we do is indoors (workshops, discussions, art projects, joining together for meals, or just hanging out by the fireplace meeting others). Recreational opportunities will be offered for a few hours each and may include hiking, skiing, improvisation, team building and hanging out in the hot tub. YAC is a mixture of recreational and educational activities offered for young adults who have or have had cancer. Individuals interested in a more recreational experience are encouraged to apply for YAC. At YAC we focus on balancing outdoor activities (rafting, fishing, archery, ropes course), with indoor workshops and discussions. Please contact our office if you are unsure which program is right for you. We are happy to give you further details concerning the different programs we offer.

What are the expectations of participants at YASC?

Our hope is that each person attends YASC with the drive to learn, meet others and have a good time. Our ultimate goal is that participants return to their community with the tools to move on after the cancer experience. Not necessarily to forget the cancer experience, but to learn from it and make the best of a challenging situation, armed with knowledge they did not have before the conference.

Can I attend YASC if I have been to YAC (or Camp Mak-A-Dream) before?

Yes, we encourage you to apply to attend YASC if you have participated in YAC or another Camp Mak-A-Dream program.

How do I apply?

Applications are available on our website: www.campdream.org or call our office at 406-549-5987 to have one sent to you. We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible. Applicants who have attended Camp Mak-A-Dream three or more times may be put on a waiting list. Anyone selected from the waiting list will be notified at least 30 days prior to the camp session.

